# At The Center

- Being Alive Living Room
- Women's Coming Out Group
- The Lambda Library
- Men's Coming Out Group
- Café Lambda
- Eagles (Gay Seniors Group)
- Project HEAL

- Being Gay Today Cable TV
- Youth Rap Group
- Lambda Players
- S.A.G.L.E.
- Youth Social Night
- Hate Crimes Reporting Project
- Youth Movie Night
- Youth AIDS/Substance Abuse Prevention

**February 1995**

*20th & L, Midtown Sacramento* *Joanna Cassese, Executive Director* *(916) 442-0185 or 447-5755 FAX*

Library
λ Lambda Community Center
Sacramento, CA

## The President's Corner
### by Larry Hoover

The Lambda Community Fund Board is responsible for the Lambda Community Center and additional "sponsored projects" such as Lambda Players, Lavender Angels, H.E.A.L., etc. In addition the Lambda Center staff has multiple committees, programs and grants that serve a wide range of constituencies from fourteen year olds to retirees. Accepting the Board presidency of this dynamic organization gave me pause, but having been elected I intend, with board support, to pursue six organizational issues.

**Focus:** The resources of the center are currently very limited. In order to achieve excellence in the programs we undertake, we will need to focus not on how many different things we do – rather how many things we can do well. During the next several months the Board will review our existing priorities and determine what we can successfully accomplish with the resources available. One new area of emphasis will be developing greater support programs for women with breast cancer.

**Space:** The existing center is inadequate – both in terms of "square feet" and its arrangement. Board member Marghe Covino and I will be joined by long-time activist Joe Garret in an ad hoc committee to find a new location.

**Finances:** The budget of the Center is derived almost entirely from grants. Support from the community is limited. The Board has already begun revision of our fund-raising strategy and will soon approach the community for significantly increased support.

**Systems:** The Lambda Community Fund is in a transition period. We are moving from a grass roots organization to a more sophisticated operation serving a very diverse community with complex needs. All existing operating systems are under review. The restructuring of the Board is under way and a review of the Lambda Center has begun.

**Accountability:** Ultimately the Lambda Community Fund, The Lambda Community Center and the various sponsored programs are responsible for achieving excellence. Systems for evaluating and reporting to the community will be updated with a shift from describing what we do to detailing outcomes of what we accomplish against established goals.

**Rainbow:** Our symbol is the rainbow, usually depicted as a flag. Our Center and related programs must be open and welcoming to each and every member of our community. The Board is appointing an ad hoc committee - reflecting the diversity of our community - to accomplish two things: (1) Review our programs to ensure that they meet the needs of our diverse community and (2) Seek out individuals from all "Queer" communities and ethnic groups and recruit them for Board appointments or other roles within our many programs.

Much work lies ahead. Board members are committed to that work. So am I. But we will need broad community support and input if we are to help our center and other programs grow.

## Youth Happenings
### by Brian Craig

Busy, busy month. So busy in fact that this month's article will be very short.

Some very dedicated youth are in the process of planning a prom /formal dance for May. A quick and big thanks to Roy and Heather for their help in the initial planning meetings. This is a big job so we may be asking for help from the community as times goes on. If you're interested in donating items or volunteering time, please let me know. I'll keep you updated as we make progress.

The Youth Rap group has come to a new level. The Friday night sessions are bigger than ever. The group is growing closer as a whole, which makes individual members feel more like a family. I'm thrilled at the progress this group has made.

On other fronts, we are working on a youth incentive program, a spring camping trip, dances, another hot line training, and some special events. Things are looking better than ever for the group and it's an exciting time to get involved.

## Just Ask, I'll Tell

### *Everyone's talking about it ... Everyone's doing it ... Have you?*

Over the past year, more than 1000 Sacramento area lesbians, gay men and bisexuals have taken part in a major 4-year study looking at the problems and challenges that face our community in the nineties. We are a third of the way to reaching our goal which is to have 3000 people in our community participate by June 1995. This is the first study of this scope to be done in the nation. You may have seen us at the Lambda or Freedom Fair, at various events around town, at the bars, or more recently at New Helvetia. If you were unable to pick up a survey at that time, do not fret – we are offering you this golden opportunity to call us for your survey today!

The *Sacramento Community Study* is being conducted by the Northern California Community Research Group which is a group of gay, lesbian and bisexual social science researchers from the University of California at Davis, under the leadership of Dr. Gregory Herek.

We are focusing on the greater Sacramento area primarily because it is our home. ***We want to conduct research that will help our own community while also contributing to scientific knowledge about lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.*** Additionally, most research within our communities has been conducted in New York and San Francisco. Although they are special places for many of us, San Francisco and New York are considered unique and this research often gets discounted. The findings are considered not representative of most lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. Consequently, Sacramento is a good place to conduct more representative research about the experiences of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

Your voice and experience is unique and it's important that our lives are represented and understood. Join in on the community effort to have our perspectives shared by participating in the ***Sacramento Community Study.*** In order for the project to succeed, we will need input from a broad cross-section of individuals and organizations in the Sacramento community. Please give us your perspective. Call 1-800-UCD-STUDY for your survey now!

If you are part of an organization and would like to ensure that your members get included in this study, call us today and we will make special arrangements to invite your members to participate.

## "Lambda U" Presents Esperanto ... The International Language
### by Franklin Anderson

Developed over 100 years ago as a solution to the worlds language problems, Esperanto is a flourishing and vibrant language.

Because of its simplified rules of grammar and spelling, Esperanto has been found to require much less time to learn than ethnic and national languages.

Although a living language in its own right with an abundant literature and millions of speakers throughout the world, Esperanto also offers a simplified introduction to the study of second languages in general.

Come join us every Monday evening at 7:00PM during March and April. For those with access to a computer, one of the local BBSs (Acropolis) has an Esperanto room.

## Kvetch with Wh-oo-lia
### by Julia Gaston

In an attempt to write my first article for the At The Center, I think it is only appropriate that I introduce myself; my name is Julia Gaston and I am the new Youth Outreach worker for the Center.

These last few months have been very exciting. Working on various youth projects, participating in HIV Prevention outreach, and most of all, becoming acquainted with the members of our youth group has been a wonderful experience for me.

I would like to mention that on February 7, at 6:30PM we are introducing a **women's youth group** where women ages 14-24 can get together to discuss various issues in their lives, as well as to have fun, talk and...kvetch!

I look forward to working with the youth group members and becoming increasingly involved in the community at large.

## Volunteer Corner
### by Alex Brashears

"The finest qualities of nature, like the bloom on fruits, can be preserved only by the most delicate handling. Yet we do not treat ourselves nor one another thus tenderly."

- Henry David Thoreau

Thank you to all those volunteers who have gotten us safely through the holidays and the first (rainy) month of this new year. As usual I am reminded that volunteering is truly one of the most nurturing activities anyone can do. It is a gift — and you are all gifts — for our whole community. As you forge through next month, running late to work, feeding the kids (both two and four-footed), grocery shopping, paying bills, cleaning house, pause for a moment. Pause and reflect on how how much you help by your efforts here, and how special a gift you really are for the time and energy, the compassion and friendliness you share with the staff, other volunteers, and clients of the Center. How fundamental your efforts are to our success. It is easy to forget just how significant your contribution really is – on both our parts!

I would like to encourage all those who have made a commitment to become involved this year, or who just want to get out of the house more, to join the over 60 regular volunteers here at the Center. We have ongoing and sometimes rather pressing needs. I am currently hoping to recruit people — anyone — high school students, senior citizens, mothers, fathers, professionals, those currently unemployed, and activists — for a variety of jobs. Some of these include:

- library assistant and general office help
- women and men to help organize and then volunteer with H.E.A.L., either providing direct services to clients facing illness, doing outreach to care-providers, or facilitating support groups for families and clients
- support group facilitators for women (general issues), domestic violence, and for support and social groups for lesbian and gay parents
- research assistants (mostly health and social issues)
- people (social worker/community organizer types) who would help put together detailed information, referral, and resource guides for use at the Center

That's all for now. By next month there will be more, so please stop in, pick up an application, and talk with me about the next volunteer orientation.

## From The E.D.

by Joanna Cassese

***What happened to the "Unity" in our Community?***

Because of the nature of my job I speak with members of our community that come from every walk of life you can imagine. Business people, politicians, attorneys, students, unemployed, homeless, young, old and everywhere in between. I also read comments and hear information second in terms of attitudes about our leaders and the Center.

Frankly I am disappointed to hear and see the apathy that seems to have permeated the lesbian, gay and bisexual community. I think my anger came to the surface with the results of our latest election. We did not loose this one, we gave it away. When a man with the dignity, experience, knowledge and compassion for all people such as Tony Miller can loose an election by such a small margin to someone who's name can not even be remembered after the election, we can point to no one but ourselves.

When we allow a governor to be re-elected who continually ignores what needs to be done in California to cut down on the spread of HIV and take care of our children we can point to no one but ourselves.

When we allow the Christian Right to continue to infiltrate school boards and local governments we can point to no one but ourselves.

So, if we are not out there fighting for our candidates, our rights – and our very future – what is our community doing? I may have a narrow point of view but what I see from our little run down Victorian building on L Street is a significant amount of bitching within our own community about our own community. I see so much energy expended putting our leaders down when we should building them up. I see members of our community doing their best to help some organizations fail instead of using our energy to make all parts of our community succeed. And I hear comments about our Community Center by people who have never set foot inside our door or served as a volunteer.

Please don't misunderstand me. I am not commenting about those members of our community who are recycled through every organization, board, and volunteer position available. I'm talking about those who never volunteer, never make any noise, never pay attention, never put energy into our community except to bitch about someone or something. Michael Gorman put it so eloquently in an article in The Latest Issue titled, "Learning From The Enemy." Michael talked about the strength of the fundamentalist churches in their attention to community building. Our strength seems to be in organizational destruction. What is happening to RCDC? What has happened to the Town Council? Because so much energy goes into fighting our own politics, we are neglecting what is happening outside our circle.

People complain about The Lambda Community Center because it needs to be painted, and it needs yard work and it needs new windows and it needs this or that.

Sacramento is damned lucky to have a community center, but a center is nothing without the community. We have so much potential if we just stop the fighting, stop the bitching and stop the backstabbing. Yes our politics are different, yes our skin is a different color and yes some of us have less than others. Let's use these differences to our advantage instead of our downfall.

I will close with the last paragraph of Michael's article. "Feel like bitching? Then build instead. Don't Like the way the nails are driven? Then grab a hammer. Feel left out? Make a place. Unsure? Let's talk. Meet me at The Community Center!"

Plan on joining us next month for an Evening of Unity. Working together we can and will make the difference. Watch next month's newsletter for details.


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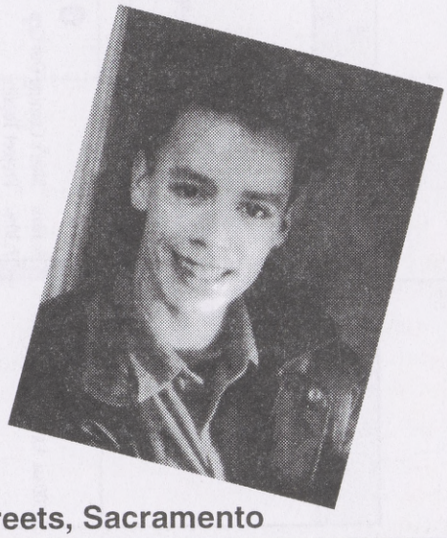

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# February 1995

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Café Lambda**<br>Feb 3rd Gung CHay Fat Choy & Open Mic<br>Feb 10th Black History Celebration 8-10:30pm<br>Vickers and Tartes Celebrate Valentines Day 10:30-Mid<br>Feb 17th Surprise (comed dressed up!)<br>Feb 24th Black History Celbration; Music, Dance and Fashion Show from 8pm - 10:30pm<br> | | | **1**<br>7:00PM Men's Focus Group | **2**<br>2-5PM Being Alive Living Room<br>6:00PM Women's C/out Group<br>7:30PM CODA | **3**<br>5:45PM Youth Group<br>8:00PM Café Lambda | **4**<br>8-Mid Youth Social |
| **5**<br>11:00AM AA | **6**<br>5:30PM Men's Coming Out Grp<br>7:30PM Project Tocsin | **7**<br>7:30PM AA | **8**<br>6:30PM Men of Color Support Group | **9**<br>2-5PM Being Alive Living Room<br>6:00PM Women's C/out Group<br>7:30PM CODA | **10**<br>5:45PM Youth Group<br>8:00PM Café Lambda | **11**<br>8-Mid Youth Social |
| **12**<br>11:00AM AA<br>6:30PM Gay Fathers of Sacramento | **13**<br>5:30PM Men's Coming Out Grp<br>6:30PM Youth Advisory Board | **14**<br>6:30pm Women's Youth Group<br>7:30PM AA | **15**<br>6:30PM Board of Directors<br>7:00PM Men's Focus Group | **16**<br>2-5PM Being Alive Living Room<br>6:00PM Women's C/out Group<br>7:30PM CODA | **17**<br>5:45PM Youth Group<br>8:00PM Café Lambda | **18**<br>Closed for Staff Meeting |
| **19**<br>11:00AM AA | **20**<br>5:30PM Men's Coming Out Grp | **21**<br>6:30pm Women's Youth Group<br>7:30PM AA | **22**<br>6:30PM Men of Color Support Group | **23**<br>2-5PM Being Alive Living Room<br>6:00PM Women's C/out Group<br>7:30PM CODA | **24**<br>5:45PM Youth Group<br>8:00PM Café Lambda Special!<br>8:00PM Transgender Group | **25**<br>8am-4:30pm Traffic School<br>8-Mid Youth Social |
| **26**<br>11:00AM AA | **27**<br>5:30PM Men's Coming Out Grp | **28**<br>6:30pm Women's Youth Group<br>7:30PM AA | | | | |

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Thursday 10PM; repeated Friday 4PM & Saturday 10AM
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call Ron Hatch at 392-7025 or Andross at 863-3425.

## Lambda Players News

The Lambda Players is pleased to present
"Baby With the Bathwater"
February 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 & 25
at the 24th Street Studio
For more information, call 442-7752.

## Michael Gorman and Marghe Covino Head Speaker's Bureau at The Center

by Joanna Cassese

Although the Lambda Center has been providing speakers for various events, schools and organizations we are expanding this program and creating a stronger structure. Beginning shortly, Michael Gorman and Marghe Covino will be providing their expertise in training and speaking along with our already established youth group and staff. If you need a speaker or would like to be part of our program please leave a message for Michael at 442-0185.

**Mark Whisler and Ken Cody**

**Tax Preparers**

**Whisler Financial Group**
**446-6666**


## The Lambda Community Center Remembers Paul Starr-Furr

by Joanna Cassese

It has been requested that remembrances in Paul's name can be make to The Lambda Freedom Fair Fund or the Hand to Hand Project. With the permission of Paul's spouse, Michael, we would like to dedicate this year's Freedom Fair to Paul.

## Your Long Distance Telephone Calls Can Raise Money For The Lambda Center!

by Joanna Cassese

Wouldn't it be nice to know that in addition to enjoying talking to your family or friends across the country or the state that you are donating to your community at the same time? The Lambda Center is part of The Pride Networks long distance telephone calling program. Sign up for The Pride Network and help us serve you. See next issue for more details!

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**If you elect to become a monthly contributor, check the "monthly" box and we'll send you a convenient payment book and a supply of return envelopes. If you choose to have your credit card billed on a monthly basis, a receipt will be sent to you every month.**

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